Freshmen react to first exams with tears, jeers, cheers

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Thrasher Reporters

"Tough!" was the general reaction among the freshman class about the first round of exams which were completed recently.

Tests in Physics 100, Chemistry 120, Math 100, History 100, and History 110, drew the most violent reactions. English exams are scheduled by the individual section instructors.

Most freshmen did admit that the tests were easier than they expected after being subjected to the "advice and counseling" of various upperclassmen. Aids in preparing for the first round of university tests were the college test files, student-conducted course reviews, and class reviews.

Tom Alton, Will Rice freshman, said that he had found Dr. Z. V. Salsburg's chemistry review valuable. Students in Dr. A. B. Bryan's physics section credited his class review as being helpful also.

Grading Gripes
Gripes about the exams were mostly concerned with the amount of time allowed for completion of the test.

Other complaints were about grading of the tests. About one out of every two freshmen interviewed took back either his math or his physics exam to the professor for review of what the grader had marked. Most said that grading was arbitrary and comparison of papers often showed different amounts of credit for the same amount of work.

Will Rice's Jim Boler said, "Overall, the tests were pretty fair, though not easy." Many freshmen agreed with Dr. Bryan's statement that the exams had to be made as difficult as they were to allow enough spread to determine fairly what each student actually knows.

Comments about individual exams varied from "too hard" to "too easy," depending on the student and his major.

Too Long, Hard
Charles Gill, of Wiess, said that the chemistry exam was "worst." Will Martin, Will Rice, stated that the subject material of the chem test was "a field of what we had studied in class." The general reaction to the test—that it was long and difficult—was borne out by the fact that the mean was 39 per cent.

One freshman said that the Math 100 test was "not comprehensive; it didn't cover what we had studied." Others claimed the Math 100 test was easier than expected. Math 101 students have not yet taken an hour test.

BS Not Easy
In history and English, exams were essay questions and the difficulty of the test lies more in how strictly a grader interprets the student's answer than in the questions on the tests. Dick Smith of Will Rice stated that for the History 100 exam a student "must be prepared, even though a discussion test can sometimes be answered without too much knowledge of facts."

Concerning the History 110 exam, most freshmen interviewed shared the viewpoint of Pat Dawson, Jones, who thought that the test was "not impossible." David Grant, from Baker, commented that there was "no use having a book—the test came from the lectures." He agreed that the exam was "fair," however.

Curve Helpful
English themes, rather than exams, seem to be giving the freshmen troubles. Several students marveled at the fact that the highest grade in their class on one recent theme was a 4-
Most of the class had scored 5's.

The most frequently heard comment was, "Thank goodness for the curve!"